GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1028
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Hindi in UNO
Devi Smt. Rama;Giluwa Shri Laxman;Yadav Shri Laxmi Narayan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for any language for giving status of official language in the United Nations Organisation (UNO) and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(b) the status of Hindi with regard to its being accepted as one of the UN official languages; and

(c) the details of funds allocated and utilized for the above purpose during the current financial year and the funds provided for the next financial year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) to (c) The United Nations has no specific criteria for a language to be recognised as an official language. The procedure for inclusion as an official language in the UN involves adoption of a Resolution in the UN General Assembly by a simple majority and its final passage by a two-third majority of the total membership of the United Nations.

Government continues to take measures for the acceptance of Hindi as one of the Official Languages of the UN. In light of this objective, the 8th World Hindi Conference was organized in New York on 13 July 2007 and its inaugural session was held at the UN Headquarters which was attended by the UN Secretary General. At the last World Hindi Conference organised in Bhopal from 10-12 Sep 2015 one of the sessions of the Conference was devoted to the theme Videsh Niti Mein Hindi ("Hindi in Foreign Policy") in which one of the recommendations reiterated was that Hindi should be made a UN language. A Committee has been established under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister for implementation of this and other recommendations made at the Conference. A World Hindi Secretariat has also been set up in Mauritius in February 2008, to promote Hindi as an international language.

On several occasions Indian leaders have delivered statements at the UN in Hindi including Prime Minister's statement to the 69th UNGA in September 2014, the address of Prime Minister to the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, the address to the 70th UNGA by External Affairs Minister in October 2015, and the address of External Affairs Minister to the 71st UNGA in September 2016. Necessary special arrangements were made for simultaneous interpretation of these statements into English by the Permanent Mission of India in New York. The United Nations broadcasts its programmes on the UN Radio Website in Hindi language also.

The Government continues its efforts in popularising Hindi worldwide and for the acceptance of Hindi as one of the UN official languages. In the current financial year (2016-17), an amount of Rs. 5.98 crore has been allocated for the propagation of Hindi worldwide through the Diplomatic Missions/Posts of India abroad.